



IRONHORSEMAN

1 Jan 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

IRONHORSE Ships off its' gear

By: Cpl. Shejal Pulivarti

Dauphin Island, Ala. native Spc. Aaron Frederick, a senior Early Warning System Operator for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division cuts a piece of plywood in order to properly secure the containers that will ship the unit's equipment Dec. 5. The Ironhorse Brigade is currently packing and shipping the necessary equipment in secured containers in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Iraq. (Right)



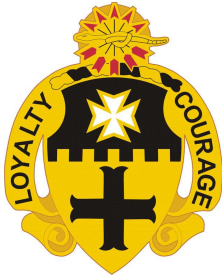
Appleton, Wis. Native Pfc. Daniel Wolf (left), a radio transmission operator receives direction from veteran and Coshocton, Ohio native Spc. Robert Rizer (right), a Bradley driver, both from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division on the correct way to secure and brace the containers that transport the units equipment Dec. 5. The Ironhorse Brigade is gearing up and shipping off their equipment in order to deploy early 2009. (left)

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Lancer and Stallion battalions from 1BCT and 1ACB conduct air assault

By: Maj. Brian Carlin



"The new guys have come a really long way, and we can communicate now without really talking."



Just before sunset Thursday, scouts from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gathered in a field near the Hargrove Platoon MOUT Facility to prepare for the final event of their training and conduct a raid on a time sensitive target.

This air assault raid was the culmination of six months of training with assistance from the Asymmetric War fighting Group from Fort Meade, Md.

"For our platoon this is one last chance to iron out all the kinks and refine our SOP and give the guys that last bit of confidence before we deploy", said CPT David Andros, the scout platoon leader, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, who hails from Greensburg, PA. "The new guys have come a really long way, and we can communicate now without really talking."

This training is different because it is more in depth and more standardized. It gives soldiers the full picture of how to better conduct cordon and search missions, capture or kill high value targets, and conduct site sensitive exploitation.

The training was developed based on successful lessons learned from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Ed Lynch, the senior trainer from the Asymmetric War fighting Group out of Fort Meade, Md. Lynch and his team travel to military posts to advise, assist and coach units during training operations. The AWG team then joins the deployed soldiers and stays with them during initial operations to ensure that they are properly employing the techniques.

Using the available sunlight, the Soldiers put on their gear and completed their pre-combat checks and inspections. Then, once the UH-60 Blackhawks landed, the teams rehearsed loading and unloading the aircraft under the supervision of the crew chiefs.

Then, after sunset, the team leaders met with Chief Warrant Officer Smith, and the pilots to conduct a hasty planning session.

With the addition of two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the A Troop, 3 Regiment of the 227th Aviation Battalion, 1st



Photo by: Sgt. Nathan Jones

Scout platoon soldiers from HHC, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division pull security during rehearsals

Air Cav BDE, the training on this night puts together all the aspects of many different training classes they have received. Those nested training events include: basic and combat marksmanship, cordon and search, site exploitation, and close quarters battle.

"It gives them a special forces type skill set that they normally would not get anywhere else" said Lynch.

"It is always good training to do it a few times, and then it's always good to do before we actually go in to do the real thing" said PV2 Elliot Redington, who hails from Hollister, CA, scout platoon, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.



Photo by: Sgt. Nathan Jones

Sacramento, Calif. Native Sgt. Lonnie Friend, the assistant aviation operations sergeant for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division coordinates the arrival of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Troop A, 3 Regiment of the 227th Aviation Battalion, 1st Air Cav BDE.

HHT Holiday Festivities



A Piece of Garryowen History

By: Lt. Josh Risher

With less than a month to go until deployment, a lot of things are disappearing from view around the Ironhorse Brigade. Motor pools are becoming empty due to the absence of connexes and vehicles. Offices are lacking equipment. Soldiers' barracks' rooms and quarters have become more spacious now that equipment went with the connexes. All the before-mentioned items are either at a port of embarkation for the Persian Gulf, or already there. The total cost of the property and equipment is in the millions. This holds true for 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, but in addition to the many costly and essential items sent down-range, Garryowen has packed up priceless heirlooms of its own history.

History is important here. The walls of the squadron's conference room are normally adorned with regalia from the past two centuries. The hallway leading from the main entrance to the command section normally has one wall covered with the portraits of regimental and battalion/squadron commanders going back to the 1870s. Command Sergeants Major portraits guard the wall at the command entrance.

The first portrait is that of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, the former Civil War general who gave the regiment its motto, "Garry Owen". Custer reportedly adopted the motto after hearing an Irish trooper whistling the tune by the same name. The tune goes to an Irish drinking song from Garryowen, Limerick, Ireland, which glorifies the reputation for hooliganism that the young men of the town had earned. Custer thought the tune was well-suited to the pace of moving on horseback, and adopted the tune as the regimental air. It became the official air of the 1st Cavalry Division as well in 1981.

Custer's influence will be seen at this historical unit during the deployment to OIF 09-10. Instead of

the standard red and white cavalry guidon, Garryowen's headquarters will display a replica of Custer's guidon. Throughout history, commanders have chosen their own standards to fly. The colors flying over 1st Squadron, 7th Cav. Regt.'s headquarters at NTC and soon in Iraq will be a red and blue cavalry-style guidon featuring crossed white sabers rather than numbers. This guidon will also appear on the squadron's deployment coin.

Almost seven decades after Custer's infamous Last Stand with the regiment at Little Big Horn in 1876, the 1940s found the regiment fighting in Leyte Gulf during World War II and was later involved in the occupation of Japan. The 1950s saw the regiment in South Korea, and later decades would see it reconstituted several times, adding and taking away aviation designations, and changing the mission and operating equipment. During non-deployment, the Squadron HQ is replete with reminders of its past.

Perhaps the most treasured items now in storage are the many photographs, graphic layouts, and banners from the Battle of Ia Drang at Landing Zone X-Ray in 1965. The 3-day battle against overwhelming enemy forces in which for the first time, the U.S. Army employed Air Assault/Air Mobile tactics for a battalion-sized element. Under the command of Lt. Col. Hal Moore (now a retired Lieutenant General), the Battalion fought its way to victory after being cut off by enemy forces, proving the effectiveness of their tactics. The event was immortalized by the book "We Were Soldiers Once and Young" by Lt. Gen. (Ret) Moore and field reporter Joe Galloway, who was present during the battle. The book was later adapted as the film "We Were Soldiers". A guidon signed by the survivors of that battle has been a prominent fixture in the squadron conference room for many years.



A Soldier from 1st Squadron 7th Cavalry removes portraits of regimental, battalion, and squadron commanders from the command hallway at Squadron Headquarters. The upper left portrait is LTC George Armstrong Custer.



Soldiers from 1st Squadron 7th Cavalry removed items of historic and esprit de corps value from the Squadron conference room during Block Leave. This Guidon bears the autographs of the surviving members of the Battalion from its historic 3-day battle at LZ X-Ray and the Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam conflict. The battle has been commemorated in recent years in both book and film.

BSTB Boasts about Centurion Ball

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By: Lt. Leyla Law

The Centurion family came together Dec. 10 to enjoy an evening of fine dining, glorious ceremonies and spirited music at the Centurion Ball.

The hall was lavished with fine Christmas décor. Videos from the training the unit went through at the National Training Center were played for family and friends to enjoy with their military loved ones.

The night continued with a tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Following tradition, Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie Davis led the Ceremony of the Grog, assisted by all the first sergeants in the Battalion.

In addition to the traditional toasts throughout the night, the Centurions celebrated a few special events. Soldiers who successfully completed the Spur Ride were awarded special recognition as well as their silver spurs. Two exceptional Soldiers re-enlisted for a new term of service.

Although events of special recognition are not

sparse in the military, the presence of our loved ones is rare, which is what made this event and all it encompassed special.

The Centurion Ball proved to be the Ball of the year for the Centurion Soldiers.

The guests left the grand dining room with meaningful memories of a gourmet dinner, spicy spirits and moments of honor and recognition to enjoy while their loved ones are deployed in support of OIF 09-10.



My Help List (Military Resources)

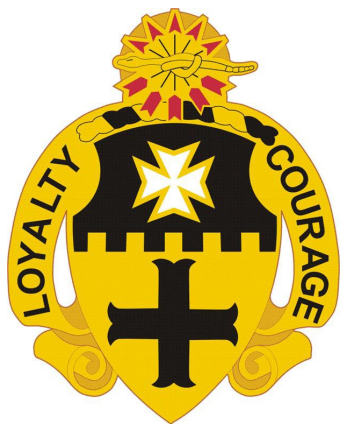
- Thrift Savings Plans (TSP)
www.tsp.gov
I-TSP-YOU-FIRST
- United Services Organization
703-908-6400
www.uso.org
- Children of Fallen Heroes
301-865-6327
www.cfsrf.org

- Military OneSource/ Wounded Warrior Resources Center
24/7 Call Center
1-800-342-9647
www.militaryonesource.com
- Joint Family Resource Center (JFRC)
On demand counseling
1-888-256-9920
<http://jfsap.mhf.dod.mil/request>
- TurboTAP.org

- Deployment Health & Family Readiness Library
<http://deploymenthealthlibrary.fhp.osd.mil>
- My Army Benefits
1-888-721-2769
www.myarmybenefits.us.army.mil
- Military Chapels and Chaplains
1-800-342-9647
www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil

Lancers continue deployment preparation

By: Lt. Stanley Olszewski



As the Ironhorse Brigade prepares to deploy, Soldiers of the Lancer Battalion continue to prepare themselves and their equipment for their upcoming mission. The training and preparations being conducted this month are the final measures taken to ensure that every Soldier is primed to execute his or her duties once deployed. While the Lancers had very successful training events over the last several months, including Gunnery and the National Training Center Rotation, this current training will ensure that all final training objectives are completed and that any final issues are resolved before the deployment.

One major training focus for the month of January is individual Soldier marksmanship. The Lancers will conduct a variety of small-arms ranges throughout this month, in order to ensure that every Soldier is qualified on his or her weapons systems. The first of these ranges was conducted by B Company "Barbarians", 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment on Jan. 6 and 7. The Barbarians went out to the Black Gap Rifle Charlie Range, on the eastern side of Fort Hood, to conduct M4 zero and qualification. This was a great training opportunity, especially for the new Soldiers that have recently arrived in the company. Overall, this range set the stage for the Battalion to have a

great month of small-arms training.

The Lancers will continue to conduct small-arms ranges throughout January. Over the next several weeks, the majority of the companies will conduct different training at several of Fort Hood's ranges. This will include M4 zero and qualification, M9 qualification, optics zero, and reflexive and close quarters fire. These different types of ranges will challenge the Soldiers, and force them to adapt to different conditions. This type of weapons training forces Soldiers to think critically about the type and location of targets they are engaging, and it ensures that they can effectively employ their weapons systems in different situations.

In addition to small-arms training, each company is conducting unit level classes on a variety of different topics, including Rules of Engagement, Area of Operations Analysis, Information Security, and Escalation of Force. The purpose of these classes is to ensure that each Soldier is aware of the different situations he or she may be forced to deal with while deployed.

Another critical training focus for this month is equipment. While all of the vehicles and equipment the Lancers need for the deployment was loaded onto trains last month, the things that are not needed must be turned

in. This includes vehicles and containers that were not shipped, as well as excess equipment that is no longer needed. While this process may not seem as pertinent to our deployment as marksmanship or medical training, it is actually a very critical part of deployment preparation. Each Company works with a team of civilians from Fort Hood's Army Sustainment Command (ASC), and signs over any unneeded or excess equipment. The teams of civilians ensure that all of the equipment is serviceable and that nothing is missing, so that the equipment can be issued out to another unit at anytime. Company executive officers and company supply NCO's are responsible for ensuring that the equipment they are turning in meets or exceeds ASC's acceptance standards.

These final preparations are a critical part of the deployment cycle. They will ensure that the Lancer Battalion maintains a high state of readiness as the deployment approaches. The time and effort that is devoted to these final training events now, will have immeasurable future benefits and will facilitate the successful completion the coming deployment. The Lancer Battalion will be ready to complete any given task, and accomplish any given mission. LANCERS!

IRONHORSEMAN

1st Cavalry Division Casing Colors Ceremony



I congratulate our leaders and Troopers on an outstanding effort by the Ironhorse BCT during the 4th quarter of FY2008 and 1st Quarter of FY2009. Our collective accomplishments during Ironhorse RAMPAGE and at the NTC for Rotation 09-01 were simply remarkable, and something we can rightly take pride in. I am equally impressed by what I have observed across the BCT in the months of November and December – with another gunnery density, Time Sensitive Targeting Platoon validation, and deployment preparation activities all executed with a high degree of spirit and professionalism. Well done Ironhorse! However, it is also important to keep such events in perspective. At its core, all of our training and preparation activities represent stepping stones – preliminary events as we continue down the path to Transfer of Authority for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Iraq is our Super Bowl, and represents at least one full year of continuous “game on” intensity where our opponents will attempt to beat us (which often means kill us) every single day. But our enemies will not succeed – because the Ironhorse BCT is an organization better led, better trained, in better shape, more disciplined, and with a stronger spirit than any adversary. With sustained commitment to our mission and each other, the Ironhorse BCT can build on its extraordinary history and reputation in Iraq, and add to its incredible string of accomplishments there.



Col. Tobin L. Green
IRONHORSE Commander

IRONHORSE Enduring Principles

The BCT's four enduring principles continue and provide the enduring, unchanging, and overarching orientation for this organization:

Train under the most demanding and realistic conditions possible. Training does not end in Iraq. The Ironhorse is a continuously learning and growing organization, and training is its cornerstone.

Prepare Troopers and family members for the hardships associated with deployment. We will not take our eye off of families when we deploy. We will endeavor to keep Soldiers connected with their loved ones. We will ensure new arrivals receive the same attention and best possible deployment preparation.

Accomplish any and all missions (results matter). Missions will change as units deploy and assume TOA, but our commitment to successful mission accomplishment is unchanging. We will never accept defeat.

Return every Trooper to their loved ones. Our fundamental obligation is always to each other. We will never leave a comrade.

Sudoku # 2

Difficulty: Medium

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5			4		2	9		
	2			1	5	4		
4		6		9				
		4	7				2	
	8	5				7	3	
	7				3	6		
				7		2		1
		1	2	8			4	
		9	3		1			6

Check next issue for answers

The **Ironhorseman** is a publication of the 1st Brigade Combat Team. The staff of the Ironhorse Public Affairs Office is dedicated to making news around the brigade available to all Soldiers.

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Cpl. Shejal Pulivarti– Editor

If you have any suggestions or submissions, please contact Cpl. Shejal Pulivarti located at the Brigade Sustainment Cell or at shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil

Chaplain's Thought

“Most men pursue pleasure and happiness with such breathless haste that they hurry past it. If a man in the desert were suddenly to discover a spring of flowing water in his tent, and so would always be able to have water in abundance, how fortunate he would consider himself to be. So too, when a person who is always turned toward the outside looking for happiness and contentment thinking that his happiness lies outside of himself, finally turns inward and discovers that the true source of his happiness is found inside himself in connection with his communion with God then he has found true happiness and contentment,”

Soren Kierkegaard

Life is a search of happiness. We traverse thousands of miles in a life time to acquire it but it always seems to evade us when all we have to do is look within our hearts where God abides.

Answer to Puzzle # 1 from last issue (16 Oct 08)

Schedule of Events

• 10 Jan—Trooper for a Day



• 14 Jan– IRONHORSE
Brigade Ball



• 16-19 Jan– MLK Holiday weekend

• 22 Jan– IRONHORSE
Vow Renewal



• 23-24 Jan– Single Soldier’s Retreat

2	4	9	6	8	1	5	7	3
8	1	5	7	3	2	4	6	9
6	3	7	4	9	5	8	2	1
9	5	3	2	7	4	1	8	6
1	7	2	5	6	8	9	3	4
4	6	8	9	1	3	7	5	2
7	8	1	3	2	9	6	4	5
3	9	4	8	5	6	2	1	7
5	2	6	1	4	7	3	9	8

Trooper for a Day– Jan. 10, 2009

